

### Current Conditions: Presence or Absence of Wilderness Characteristics

**Area Unique Identifier:** CO-060-034

**Acreage:** 3,691.75

**Is the area of sufficient size?**

Yes ☐ No ☒

#### Description

The unit of BLM land identified as CO-060-034 is less than 5,000 acres and with no adjoining Wilderness or WSA this parcel does not meet any of the size requirement criteria. The northern boundary is Forest Service land and the Sapinero State Wildlife Area. The eastern boundary is road 3017(Red Creek) and the Sapinero State Wildlife Area. The southern boundary is the National Park Service (NPS), Curecanti National Recreation Area (NRA). The western boundary consists of the Curecatnit NRA and private land.

**(1) Does the area appear to be natural?**

Yes ☒ No ☐ N/A ☐

#### Description

This area is dominated by low drainages and high rocky mesa tops. Dillon Mesa runs from north to south through the parcel. Unique rock formations exist on several hill tops. Small clusters of dense vegetation are present throughout the parcel. Sage brush, aspen and cottonwood exist in the lower elevation areas while spruce, pine, aspen and juniper can be found at higher elevations. There are a number of closed roads in the unit and from satellite images it appears that neighboring land owners may be using these closed roads. Human activity in this area consists mainly of hiking and hunting. During the winter months this parcel is minimally used for deer hunting. This parcel experiences ±50 visitors per year.

**(2) Does the area (or the remainder of the area if a portion has been excluded due to unnaturalness and the remainder is of sufficient size) have outstanding opportunities for solitude?**

Yes ☒ No ☐ N/A ☐

#### Description

The characteristics of this area provide outstanding opportunities for solitude. There is only one road that can be used to access this parcel on its eastern boundary with the western, northern and

southern boundaries accessible only to hiking or horseback due to the rising topography. There is a high topographical relief throughout the area. Dillon Mesa's high elevation provides solitude. Many visitors could be in this area at one time and not be aware of one another.

**Does the area (or the remainder of the area if a portion has been excluded due to unnaturalness and the remainder is of sufficient size) have outstanding opportunities for primitive and unconfined recreation?**

Yes ☒ No ☐ N/A ☐

**Description**

This parcel provides outstanding opportunities for primitive and unconfined recreation. Hiking, backpacking, wildlife viewing, horseback riding and hunting are all possible within this area.

**(3) Does the area have supplemental values (ecological, geological, or other features of scientific, educational, scenic, or historic value)?**

Yes ☒ No ☐ N/A ☐

**Description**

Unique rock formations are present and can be seen from road 3017 (Photo 1). One potential fen is located in this unit measuring at 0.15 acres and rated low. This parcel contains high levels of elk winter habitat, severe elk winter habitat, winter mule deer habitat, severe mule deer habitat. It also possesses a very low level of lynx habitat, and medium levels of occupied and potential sage grouse habitat.

## Summary of Analysis

Area Unique Identifier: CO-060-034

### Result of Analysis:

1. Does the area meet any of the size requirements? ☐ Yes ☒ No
2. Does the area appear to be natural? ☒ Yes ☐ No
3. Does the area offer outstanding opportunities for solitude or a primitive or unconfined type of recreation? ☒ Yes ☐ No
4. Does the area have supplemental values? ☒ Yes ☐ No

### Check one

☐ The area, or portion of the area, has wilderness characteristics and is identified as lands with wilderness characteristics.

☒ The area does not have wilderness characteristics.

### Prepared by (team members):

John Millea

Corrie Barbour

### (Name, Title, Date)

### Reviewed by District or Field Manager:

Name: Brian S. George Title: Field Manager  
Date: 7/31/13

\*This form documents information that constitutes an inventory finding on wilderness characteristics. It does not represent a formal land use allocation or a final agency decision subject to administrative remedies under either 43 CFR parts 4 or 1610.5-3.